

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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42

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 DRC-01 AID-20 PC-10 OMB-01

OPR-02 /114 W

----- 122621

O 051715Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2338

INFO USCINCSO

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 1261

DEPT PASS ALL ARA DIPLOMATIC POSTS

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GT

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION SITUATION REMAINS CONFUSED-
ELECTION REPORT NUMBER 15

1. AT THE DAWN OF THE SECOND DAY FOLLOWING THE MARCH 3
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, THE SITUATION REMAINS CONFUSED.
BOTH GENERAL LAUGERUD, WHO IS SPONSORED BY THE GOVERNMENT
BACKED CONSERVATIVE MLN-PID COALITION AND GENERAL RIOS
MONTT, WHO IS BACKED BY THE LEFT-OF-CENTER CHRISTIAN
DEMOCRATIC LED UNITED OPPOSITION FRONT, ARE CLAIMING
VICTORY, CENTER-OF-THE ROAD PR CANDIDATE COL. PAIZ
NOVALES IS OUT OF THE RUNNING. THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH
HAS BEEN UNBELIEVABLY SLOW IN RELEASING ELECTION
STATISTICS, IS ONCE AGAIN DRIBBLING THEM OUT IN A MANNER
WHICH SHOWS LAUGERUD AHEAD, AND WHICH SMACKS OF GROSS
FRAUD.

2. IT NOW APPEARS TO US THAT RIOS MONTT WON THE ELECTION
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BUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT, WITH THE BACKING OF PRESIDENT

ARANA, INTENDS TO STEAL IT BY FALSIFYING THE RETURNS.
WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WILL SUCCEED IN ITS PLAN WILL
DEPEND LARGELY ON THE ATTITUDE OF THE ARMY, WHICH IN TURN
WILL TAKE ITS CUE FROM THE DEGREE OF POPULAR DISCONTENT
MANIFESTED OVER THE PROJECTED RIPOFF. WE BELIEVE THE ARMY
WILL CONTROL ANY MINOR DISTURBANCES, BUT WILL BACK OFF FROM
A MAJOR CONFRONTATION IF IT SHOULD ARISE. WE ALSO ESTIMATE
THAT RIOS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PROVOKE A MAJOR
CONFRONTATION. NEVERTHELESS, OUR PROGNOSTICATION
FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS IS FOR CONFUSION AND A CERTAIN
DEGREE OF INSTABILITY.
MELOY

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ALL ARA DIPLOMATIC POSTS.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, NATIONAL ELECTIONS, ELECTION FRAUD, POLITICAL SITUATION
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Draft Date: 05 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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